THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EN VIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) State/UT Governments have reported vacancies of frontline staff in Forest and Wildlife Departments.

(b) Yes sir.

. (c) and (d) Recruitment of frontline forest personnel is vested with the State/UT Government. Ban on recruitments, lack of financial resources etc. are the reasons cited by the State/UT Governments for not filling up che vacant posts. However, the State/UT Governments have been requested by this Ministry to fill up the vacant posts of frontline staff in Forest and Wildlife Departments.

Sabarmati River Project Phase-II

2202. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cleaning up project phase-II for Sabarmati river has been approved by Government of India;

(b) if so, the amount of fund allocated to the project for the State of Gujarat.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cleaning up project phase-II for Sabarmati river has been appraised and approved by Government; and

(d) if so, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EN VIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The proposal received from the State Government of Gujarat for cleaning of Sabarmati River Phase-II at Ahmedabad could not be considered due to budgetary constraints. Accordingly, the State Government was advised to explore the alternative sources of funding including external assistance for the said works.

implementation of Forest Right Act

2203. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to give land rights to tribal and forest dwellers which will be applicable from January 1, 2008;

(b) if so, whether the Forest Right Act rules, which were to be notified in October were held back;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether all State Governments have considered and agreed to implement the Act seriously;

(e) if so, how many States have so far done it; and

(0 by when all States will be implementing this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest